

FROM : PARRAMOREE

PHONE NO. : 334687988686

Feb. 02 2006 11:41AM P2

Walter Liston Corcoran, Jr.
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155 Corcoran Road
Eufaula, Alabama 36027
334-687-6201

Statement prepared for U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture

I am Walt Corcoran, a cotton and peanut producer from Barbour County, Alabama. Thank you for conducting this Farm Bill Hearing today in Auburn, and for allowing me to give my thoughts on behalf of the Alabama Farmers Federation and Cotton producers.

As you all know we are approaching the end of the 2002 Farm Bill we believe it has served us well. Because of this it is essential that the current law be allowed to operate without modifications through it's scheduled expiration at the end of the 2007 crop. This will allow producers to continue to make responsible operating decisions for all aspects of their business. The '02 law has provided a well balanced approach to commodity conservation, nutrition, and rural development programs, and has been less expensive than originally projected.

In today's Agribusiness atmosphere there are very few certainties. We as producers of Agricultural commodities can control very few things. A fact that was really driven home last Fall when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita slammed into the Gulf Coast. Not only did this destroy the actual crops in the effected area, but sent shock waves through the economy as fuel prices sky rocketed during the most critical time of harvest. Input prices such as fuel, fertilizer, technology, and seed; commodity prices and the weather are all for the most part out of the producers control. That is why we need a stable and consistent Farm Policy. It provides the essential foundation upon which we build long term plans. We have such a policy in the '02 Farm Bill.

I agree with the American Farm Bureau recently expressed support for an extension of the current law. I also believe that the '02 law should serve as the foundation for the next Farm Bill. There are many different interrelated concepts in the '02 law that work together to accomplish it's goals.

One such concept is the direct and counter-cyclical payment programs. These two payments work together to provide an effective means of income support especially in time of low commodity prices, and they do this without distorting planting decisions. Another concept is the marketing loan program. It is critical that all production remain eligible for this program. This will insure Farmers are able to make orderly production and marketing decisions, and that U.S. commodities are competitive in international markets. It is also important that the existing authority to use marketing certificates in time of extraordinary low prices be maintained.

Planting flexibility is also an important concept in the current law that should be maintained. This principle allows Farmers to make decisions based on Agronomic principles and market conditions, instead of government regulations.

I farm in a family partnership. We raise about 4500 acres of row crops. Mostly cotton and peanuts, so, payment limitations are very important to me. A significant majority of Farmers oppose all forms of payment limitations, and I ask you to at the least maintain current payment limits and eligibility requirements. Also, I ask you to realize the significant differences that exist in the size and structure of Farming operations from one region of the Country to another, and from one cropping system to another.

In recent years, conservation programs have been and will continue to be important components of farm policy. They should not be considered a substitute for a safety net for commodities, but should be operated on a voluntary, cost-share basis, and thereby complement commodity programs. Conservation programs such as the Conservation Security Program (CSP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) are proven, valuable ways to promote sound conservation and environmental practices through cost-share, incentive based approaches.

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I know we do not live or operate in a vacuum, and that future budget authority and the provisions of the Doha WTO negotiations, if completed, will ultimately shape our next Farm Bill. That is why it is critical that Congress protect the budget baseline for all aspects of the Farm Bill. Without adequate budget authority the safety net provided by the '02 law cannot be maintained in the next Farm Bill.

As for the Doha WTO negotiations, we, in the cotton industry are very concerned with the direction the negotiations are taking. Cotton should not be singled out under any circumstances, but the negotiations should be conducted as a single undertaking for all programs regarding levels of domestic support. We also believe no reductions in domestic support should be agreed upon unless accompanied by meaningful increases in market access for all WTO countries.

Market access has become increasingly important in recent months and our success as Farmers hinges greatly on fair trade. It is important that export market promotion such as the Market Access Program (MAP) be continued to support an export-based agricultural economy. It is also important that WTO-compliant export credit guarantee programs be continued. In closing, I emphasize that a continuation of the current program would serve agriculture well. The current program provides planting flexibility to growers, and effective safety net in times of low prices, and minimal impacts on overall plantings and prices.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to offer these comments.

FROM : PARRAMOREE

PHONE NO. : 334687988686

Feb. 02 2006 12:45PM P2

Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Required Witness Disclosure Form

House Rules* require nongovernmental witnesses to disclose the amount and source of Federal grants received since October 1, 2004.

Name: Walter Liston Corcoran, Jr.
Address: 155 Corcoran Rd.
Telephone: 334-687-6201

Organization you represent (if any): Alabama Farmers Federation
Cotton Committee

1. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants and subcontracts) you have received since October 1, 2004, as well as the source and the amount of each grant or contract. House Rules do NOT require disclosure of federal payments to individuals, such as Social Security or Medicare benefits, farm program payments, or assistance to agricultural producers:

Source: _____	Amount: _____
Source: _____	Amount: _____

2. If you are appearing on behalf of an organization, please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants and subcontracts) the organization has received since October 1, 2004, as well as the source and the amount of each grant or contract:

Source: _____	Amount: _____
Source: _____	Amount: _____

Please check here if this form is NOT applicable to you: ✓

Signature: Walter L. Corcoran Jr.

* Rule XI, clause 2(g)(4) of the U.S. House of Representatives provides: Each committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, require witnesses who appear before it to submit in advance written statements of proposed testimony and to limit their initial presentations to the committee to brief summaries thereof. In the case of a witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years by the witness or by any entity represented by the witness.

PLEASE ATTACH DISCLOSURE FORM TO EACH COPY OF TESTIMONY.

FROM : PARRAMOREE

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Feb. 02 2006 11:45AM P1

Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Information Required From Non-governmental Witnesses

House rules require non-governmental witnesses to provide their resume or biographical sketch prior to testifying. If you do not have a resume or biographical sketch available, please complete this form.

1. Name: Walter Liston Corcoran, Jr.
2. Business Address: 155 Corcoran Road
Eufaula, Alabama 36027
3. Business Phone Number: 884-687-6201
4. Organization you represent: Alabama Farmers Federation Cotton Committee
5. Please list any occupational, employment, or work-related experience you have which add to your qualification to provide testimony before the Committee.
Born and raised on a family farm. Farming has always been my way of life, and I have a farming partnership, Corcoran Farms, since 1983. Corcoran Farms produces cotton, peanuts, corn, grain, and cattle on a commercial scale.
6. Please list any special training, education, or professional experience you have which add to your qualifications to provide testimony before the Committee:
B.S. Agronomy and Soil, Auburn University 1983, National Cotton Council Leadership class graduate; Cotton Board; alternate, President Barbour County Farmer's Federation; 2001-2005; Southern Southeastern Cotton Board; PIE Leadership Class; Chairman State Cotton Committee Farmer's Federation; current.
7. If you are appearing on behalf of an organization, please list the capacity in which you are representing that organization, including any offices or elected positions you hold:
Alabama Farmer's Federation - Cotton Committee Chairman
Member Alabama Producer STATE Support Program Committee
Director - Southern Cotton Growers

PLEASE ATTACH THIS FORM OR YOUR BIOGRAPHY TO EACH COPY OF TESTIMONY.